1486. ff. 9.

Mr. S---- O---- *his Laſt Speech in* P------*t on* Saturday, January 24, $17\frac{18}{19}$.

Mr. SPEAKER,

AS I am now going to take my final Leave of this Honourable Houſe, I think my ſelf oblig'd in Duty to ſay a Word or two before I go. 'Tis true, my Worthy Kinſman, Mr. *G . . . s E . . e*, who ſpoke both firſt and laſt, has been very eloquent in my Behalf; but ſince I do not find he is like to prevail, and alſo that one Half of this Noble Aſſembly is not for me, and the other Half directly againſt me, I muſt own in this publick Manner, that I am as fairly dealt with as ever any unworthy Member was: And therefore I do, with Sorrow of Heart, lament my paſt Follies, and call to Mind that old Saying of *Vox Populi Vox Dei*, which is as much as to ſay, *That God and Parliament are both againſt me.* I do therefore with much Contrition bewail my making of Contracts with Deceitfulneſs of Heart, uſing and abuſing all my Fellow-Creatures in a moſt wicked Manner, meddling with Matters I did not underſtand, and contending with thoſe who were too mighty for me; my Pride, my Arrogance, my Avarice, and my Ambition, have been my Downfall; my wicked Attempt on the *Auditor*'s Office for 3 *s.* 6 *d.* my ſecret Tenure in the Lottery of 1710, which, if known, would diſable me from Sitting in this Houſe; my Turning out Mr. *T-----r* of *Weymouth*, (who was put in by the *Treaſury*) contrary to Law or Equity,

Honour

Honour or Honeſty, who has the Management of the *Portland* Quarry, and is very inſtrumental in ſending up four good Members for that Corporation and *Melcomb-Regis*; my Turning out the poor Maſter-M----n without the Knowledge of the King or Treaſury; my Endeavours to turn out Mr. *Wiſe*, the King's Gardener, by the ſame Means, under Pretence of ſaving the Crown Money; my calling a Great Man *Count* in a moſt audacious Manner before ſeveral Porters and Chairmen of this Realm; my making a Tin-man a Clerk of the Works at *Wincheſter*, and then Mayor of *Shaſton*, in order to ſecure my Election by a falſe Return, and then to get him Pounded; my abuſing the Beſt of Kings, in cauſing many of his good Subjects to be ſecur'd, by Officers Civil and Military, under Pretence of High Treaſon, juſt at the Time of Election, becauſe I knew they would not Vote for me, making ſeveral Freeholders believe that the Government was on my Side, or rather in my Hands; my endeavouring to bribe High Sheriffs, and making Under-Sheriffs, in order to carry on divers and ſundry Law-Suits againſt all thoſe poor People at *Shaftsbury* who would not give me their Votes; my Cheating the ingenious Mr. *Holland* of *Amesbury* of his Water-Works, and claiming them as my own, carrying off his Foremen, and crying down his Reputation, and by both recommending my ſelf to his Majeſty as a famous Hydrographer, and ſending poor *Jack R---y* to *Hanover* to carry on the Joke; my turning out old Sir *Chr----r W--n*, and ſending his Grey Hairs with Sorrow to the Grave, purſuing him with Slander and Calumny to his quiet Retreat, filling his Office with hungry and ignorant Pretenders; poſtponing all the Tradeſmens Bills, to the great Damage of their Families and Creditors; my employing many and paying none; my accuſing the Innocent, and cheating the Believers, and making Tools of all Mankind; my abuſing the beſt of Miniſters for detecting the greateſt Frauds; my giving out that my Security lay much in ſome Great People not proper to be named, making the credulous World believe that they were to ſhare in my Rocks, my Wharfs, my Contracts, my Gardens, Lotteries, *&c.* for which I heartily aſk their Pardons:

But

But above all, not having the Fear of God before my Eyes, feloniouſly falling on the Bodies of Lords and Commons of this Realm, and putting them in bodily Fear, contrary to the eſtabliſh'd Laws of this Land; not remembering that *Guido Faux* ſtands cenſur'd in Red Letters only for endeavouring to blow up one Houſe, whereas I have attempted to pull down two.

For all theſe and innumerable more Crimes and Miſdemeanours, an Abſtract of which would fill *Great Britain*, and of which I own my ſelf Guilty, I as heartily, as ever I paid a juſt Debt in my Life, aſk Pardon of God, my King, my Country, and my Conſcience: And I do here promiſe, on the Word of a Man of Honour, that if I can ever ſneak into any Corner of this Honourable Houſe again, by the Means of ſome diſtant Borough, before any Body is aware of me, I will behave in juſt the ſelf-ſame Manner, who am

Your moſt confounded humble Servant,

S. O.

Now having taken Leave of the Houſe, a Word to the Publick.

I Intend, during my Receſs from the Hurry of National Affairs, to publiſh a faithful Narration of my whole Life hitherto; after which Time I hope no Body will be ſo unfair as to accuſe me of what I my ſelf ſhall impartially lay open. Let them remember the conſtant Saying of a worthy Country Divine, on his coming into Company, *Look ye, Gentlemen, I am a Parſon and a Cuckold, now ſay your worſt.*

LONDON, Printed for *A. Moore* near St. *Paul's*.

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